

Leslie Berlowitz  
Draft Obituary  
**DOB: March 1, 1944**

Leslie Cohen Berlowitz, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, who fashioned a behind-the-scenes role as a leader in the national humanities community while building the stature and national prominence of the 2xx-year-old international learned society, passed away on tk in tk. She was tk.

A native New Yorker, Berlowitz took charge of the Cambridge-based Academy in 1996, transforming it from a sleepy scholarly enclave to an energetic research institute, drawing on some of the world's most accomplished intellectuals to provide policy advice to government and academic leaders. The board named her President in 2010. She was the first woman to lead the organization and also held the William T. Golden Chair.

A skillful writer, masterful collaborator, and prodigious fundraiser, Berlowitz possessed an eclectic range of interests, overseeing the Academy's wide-ranging research program on topics from global security and science policy to education and American institutions. She adroitly used the Academy's unique convening power and its membership of Supreme Court justices, corporate CEOs, and Nobel laureates to create an unparalleled venue for the intersection of academia and the professions, the arts and the sciences. In 2004, members recognized her imaginative intellect and administrative prowess by electing her a Fellow of the Academy.

While reinvigorating the Academy's programs and publications and turning it into a truly national organization, Berlowitz conceived and led initiatives to nurture the next generation of scholars, including residential fellowship programs in the humanities, social sciences, and science policy. She also established an archival program to conserve, catalog, and improve access to the Academy's records for the first time in its 2xx-year history. One of Berlowitz' many signature accomplishments was an Academy-sponsored collaboration of national learned societies that led to the development of the Humanities Indicators, the first-ever comprehensive compilation of statistical data about the humanities.

A scholar of American literature, Berlowitz began her career teaching English at New York University in 1967 and over two decades rose through the administrative ranks to become the university's Vice President for Academic Advancement. While at NYU, she helped found the New York Institute for the Humanities and led a number of cross-institutional initiatives, and served as a close aide to two NYU presidents.

She co-edited several books, including two literary volumes, *Greenwich Village: Culture and Counterculture* (Rutgers University Press, 1993); and *America in Theory* (Oxford University Press, 1988); as well as a book on corporate responsibility, *Restoring Trust in American Business* (MIT Press, 2005). At the Academy, she provided editorial direction to the prestigious quarterly journal, *Daedalus*.

Berlowitz was a member of the Century Association and served on the boards of numerous national non-profit organizations, including the National Humanities Alliance, the Corporation of Yaddo, and an advisory board to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

She received undergraduate and doctoral degrees from New York University and a Master's from Columbia University.

She is survived by a daughter, Sarah Arron of San Mateo, California, a brother, Gary Cohen of New York City, and two grandchildren.

###